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DATE: November 3, 2008 **CODE: AA- 2008-43**

TO: Provosts/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs

FROM: Gary W. Reichard 
Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer

RE: Proficiency Conference Follow-up

This is a request that you ask your teams that participated in the October 30-31 Proficiency Conference to meet on campus to reflect on next steps / ways forward. At your discretion, you might simply ask your team to meet together; you might ask selected others to join the team in a reflective meeting; or you might ask that the team meet with an appropriate pre-existing campus committee, task force or group. In our vision, the administrative member of the team might be requested to host or take leadership in a reflective meeting; review with the appropriate group a number of questions such as are suggested in appendices to this memo; and then be in touch with us about the results of such conversation.

By way of background: in the estimates of most, and certainly in my own judgment, the conference was successful in at least three important ways. Conference attendees:

- heard three interesting presentations about good work being done by community colleges;
- sampled 26 presentations (in concurrent sessions) by colleagues from CSU campuses about promising practices and alternative approaches;
- Reported feeling encouraged by this meeting of professionals concerned with fostering academic success for students who do not show proficiency at initial matriculation.

We will value reports from the teams about further consideration and projected follow-up at their home institutions. In turn, Academic Affairs in the Chancellor's Office wishes to consider how we might facilitate the introduction or strengthening of promising practices that support student success. Possibilities might include assisting partnerships, joining multi-campus efforts, fostering connections between and among professionals.

CSU Campuses
Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

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Your responses to us will be most useful if received by Friday, November 21, 2008.

Please see Appendices A, B, C, and D for suggested discussion rubrics, and see Appendix E for a preferred form for a report to us. Reports may be e-mailed to Ms. Yvonne Benavides at <mailto:ybenavides@calstate.edu>. We will ask Ted Lucas for a report at our December Academic Council meeting.

Thank you in advance for convening a reflective meeting, and being in touch with us.

cc: Vice Presidents, Student Affairs
John Tarjan, Chair, Academic Senate CSU
Keith Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor
Lorie Roth, Assistant Vice Chancellor
Ted Lucas, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor, CAO

Appendix A.

**Community College Projects and Approaches:
Suggested Rubric for Reflective Discussions**

Let us consider first the presentations by California Community Colleges.

We heard about:

1. **The Learning Centers for Mathematics and English,**
 - which provide opportunities for experiential learning through carefully crafted curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and instructor involvement;

 2. **Promoting Inquiry to Transform Faculty Practices,**
 - which uses Faculty inquiry Groups to promote knowledge of teaching and learning and engages faculty to address student needs, revise curriculum, and adapt pedagogy in math and English;

 3. **The Puente Project,**
 - which creates a community that integrates a framework of counseling and academics.
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- A. Were you particularly impressed with any of these? Would you like to find out more about any of these?
 - B. Do you have any questions in specific about them?
 - C. How do you think these approaches might fit the interests and culture of faculty and other professionals here on our campus?
 - D. Would you appreciate some interchanges with colleagues on other CSU campuses on your topic(s) of particular interest?
 - E. Some at the conference wondered about working with community colleges on remedial topics. Do you think that working with your local community colleges would be useful in approaching any of these topics?
 - F. Apart from sending more cash (a difficult thing in our current budget environment) -- are there ways that you can envision that the Chancellor's Office could facilitate your work?

Appendix B.

**Mathematics Projects and Approaches:
Suggested Rubric for Reflective Discussions**

These presentations had a math focus:

1. **Increasing Proficiency Simply Through Communication** [Ted Cluver, CSU Chico]
 2. **Summer Bridge, which includes entry-level math instruction** [Victor Olivares and Robert Musselman, Fresno]
 3. **Redesigning Assessment and Placement for Mathematics at Humboldt** [Tyler Evans]
 4. **The SJSU Model: Mastery Learning and Large Lecture Halls** [Susan McClory, SJSU]
 5. **One Pathway is All There is on the Ridge** [Michael Neubauer, Northridge]
 6. **CSU Long Beach's Two-Track Math Path** [Larry Brownson, Long Beach]
 7. **How is the Need for Mathematics Remediation Defined in the CSU?** [Marshall Cates, Los Angeles]
 8. **Transforming Course Design in Developmental Mathematics** [Mike Krebs, Los Angeles, and Jeff Gold, Chancellor's Office]
 9. **Using Technology in Developmental Math** [Stan Barrick, Sacramento]
- A. Were you particularly impressed with any of these? Would you like to find out more about any of these?
 - B. Do you have any questions in specific about them?
 - C. How do you think these approaches might fit the interests and culture of faculty and other professionals here on our campus?
 - D. Would you appreciate some interchanges with colleagues on other CSU campuses on your topic(s) of particular interest?
 - E. Some at the conference wondered about working with community colleges on remedial topics. Do you think that working with your local community colleges would be useful in approaching any of these topics?
 - F. Apart from sending more cash (a difficult thing in our current budget environment) -- are there ways that you can envision that the Chancellor's Office could facilitate your work?

Appendix C.

**English Projects and Approaches:
Suggested Rubric for Reflective Discussions**

These presentations had an English focus:

1. **The History of Basic Writing at “the Beach”** [Mark Wiley, Long Beach]
 2. **Breaking the Margin: Asian American Composition** [Wei Ming Dariotis, San Francisco]
 3. **Collaborative Engagement to Promote Successful Freshman Writing at CSU Northridge** [Roberta Orona-Cordova]
 4. **Engaging with High School Teachers: Articulating University Expectations** [John Edlund, Pomona; Nancy Brynelson, Chancellor’s Office]
 5. **Integrating Online and In-Person Learning for Developmental Writers** [John Leih, San Jose]
 6. **San Francisco State’s Integrated Reading/Writing Program: An Alternative to Remediation** [Sugie Goen-Salter, San Francisco]
 7. **Meeting the Needs of Multilingual Students at Sacramento State** [Robbie Ching]
 8. **Mainstreaming Writing at Chico: Measures of Success** [Chris Fosen, Chico]
 9. **P is for Placement: Putting the Placement Back in the EPT with CSUSB’s Stretch Program** [Kim Costino, Sunny Hyon, San Bernardino]
 10. **Directed Self-Placement at Channel Islands** [Bob Mayberry, Stacey Anderson]
 11. **Jump Start: Preparing the Unprepared Before Fall Classes** [Mark Williams and Henry Fung, Long Beach]
 12. **Composition in Learning Communities** [Margaret Rustick and Sally Murphy, East Bay]
- A. Were you particularly impressed with any of these? Would you like to find out more about any of these?
 - B. Do you have any questions in specific about them?
 - C. How do you think these approaches might fit the interests and culture of faculty and other professionals here on our campus?
 - D. Would you appreciate some interchanges with colleagues on other CSU campuses on your topic(s) of particular interest?

- E. Some at the conference wondered about working with community colleges on remedial topics. Do you think that working with your local community colleges would be useful in approaching any of these topics?
- F. Apart from sending more cash (a difficult thing in our current budget environment) -- are there ways that you can envision that the Chancellor's Office could facilitate your work?

Appendix D.

**Interdisciplinary Projects and Alternative Approaches:
Suggested Rubric for Reflective Discussions**

These presentations had either an interdisciplinary focus or an alternative approach:

1. **Outsourcing Developmental Math and Writing at SDSU** [Glen McClish]
 2. ***FastForward* to Academic Success** [Victor Olivares and Robert Musselman, Fresno]
 3. **Aligning Standards and Expectations – Engaging the Conversations** [Lilian Metlitzky, Pomona]
 4. **Assessment – Evaluating our Students’ Learning in Order to Improve our Teaching** [Robby Ching, Sacramento]
 5. **How Well Do Remediated Students at the CSU Fare in Terms of Persistence to Degree?** [Philip Garcia, Chancellor’s Office]
- A. Were you particularly impressed with any of these? Would you like to find out more about any of these?
 - B. Do you have any questions in specific about them?
 - C. How do you think these approaches might fit the interests and culture of faculty and other professionals here on our campus?
 - D. Would you appreciate some interchanges with colleagues on other CSU campuses on your topic(s) of particular interest?
 - E. Some at the conference wondered about working with community colleges on remedial topics. Do you think that working with your local community colleges would be useful in approaching any of these topics?
 - F. Apart from sending more cash (a difficult thing in our current budget environment) -- are there ways that you can envision that the Chancellor’s Office could facilitate your work?

Appendix E.

Preferred Form for a Report to the Chancellor's Office

- Your report should be e-mailed, preferably using this form, to:
[Mailto:ybenavides@calstate.edu](mailto:ybenavides@calstate.edu)
- Your report will help us most if received by **November 21, 2008**

Campus Name: _____

Campus Contact
Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone number: _____

I. Please list, in order, **the four promising practices or alternative approaches** that emerged from your campus' reflective conversation. The implication is that you would like further information about the items chosen.

#1: Top-rated practice or approach: _____

#2: _____

#3: _____

#4: _____

II. What ways can you envision for the Chancellor's Office to facilitate your work?

(Give us your good ideas here. As appropriate, use additional lines / sheets of paper.)